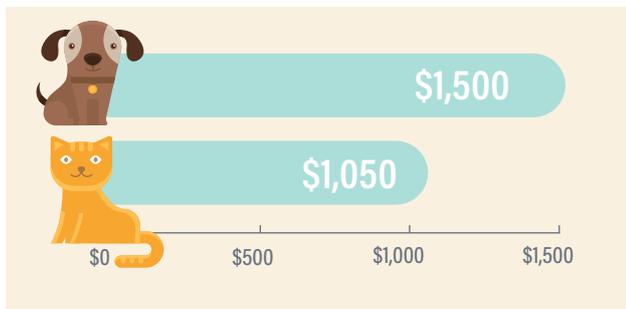


THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH OWNING A PET

There is a lot to consider before bringing a new pet into your family. Pets can have some amazing benefits to our health and our happiness, but there are also costs involved with keeping any pet, and these costs are ongoing throughout the life of a pet.



Average yearly cost to keep a pet



According to the Pet Ownership Report produced in 2016 by Animal Medicines Australia, the average Australian dog costs up to \$1500 per year to keep, and the average cat is not that far behind, at approximately \$1050 per year. This adds up quickly, when dogs live for an average of 11 to 13 years, and cats live 15 to 18 years, sometimes much longer!

Costs incurred in the first year of ownership can be expected to almost double this, as there are initial costs to consider including the purchase of food and water bowls, beds, collars, leads, toys, and other items.



Average routine vet visit cost



Up front costs of getting a pet outside of a shelter

If you get your pet from a shelter, they will already be desexed and microchipped and will have received their initial vaccination. If you obtain a pet privately or through other means, you may have to provide this yourself, and the costs can add up quickly.



Ongoing yearly costs

Each year, you will have the following average costs to consider for a dog:



- Annual food consumption \$650
- Annual council registration \$25-\$130
- Grooming requirements \$128/visit
- Annual vaccination \$110
- Training \$80/hour
- Monthly worming and flea treatments \$30
- Boarding \$40/night



Cats are only marginally less than this, with a slight reduction in registration costs, grooming costs, and feed costs.

Pet insurance cost

Many owners choose pet insurance to assist with the cost of veterinary procedures should their pet become very ill. This can range anywhere between **\$20 per month to \$60 per month** or even higher, depending on the breed of animal and level of cover selected.

Australian pet insurance companies have claimed that the below is an example of what some of their clients have been billed for procedures.

- \$8,687 for a dog's twisted stomach treatment,
- \$6,643 for a cat's tumour removal and treatment, and
- \$4,211 for canine cruciate ligament treatment



Bendigo Animal Relief Centre

20 Piper Lane, East Bendigo t. (03) 5441 2209
 e. barcreception@bendigo.vic.gov.au
 www.bendigoanimalreliefcentre.com.au

